subsequent to receiving the request for the second operation data, transmitting the second operation data to the requesting subscriber terminal.

17.   A method for use in an interactive television system, comprising the steps of:

storing operation data, the operation data associated with at least one user input during a first mode, the operation data identifying a particular operation;

receiving a user input during a second mode;

comparing the user input during the second mode with the operation data stored associated with the first mode; and

performing an operation corresponding with the operation data which matches the user input during the first mode, or an operation associated with the user input during the second mode.

18.   The method of claim 17, further including the steps of:

transmitting second operation data from a system manager associated with the operation during the second mode; and

receiving the second operation data at a subscriber terminal,

wherein the second operation data replaces the stored operation data during the first mode.

REMARKS

Claims 15-26 are pending in the present application prior to entry of the foregoing amendment and response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2002. Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Belcher et al. (3,987,397). Claims 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuko et al. (4,686,564) in view of Seth-Smith et al. (4,829,569). Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Belcher. As amended, Belcher does not teach or describe each element of claims 15-18. More specifically, Belcher does not teach that a user input can be a request for a first stored operation data or a second operation data, where the second operation data is not stored in the subscriber terminal or prompted by the system manager. In contrast, Belcher teaches "(e)ach transmission sequence is initiated by an interrogation sequence from the CDS 11", col. 6, lines 13-15. Furthermore, col. 9, lines 8-14 state, "(i)n the "RESPONSE" position the

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switch 67 permits the selector 66 to be utilized by the viewer-operator to select a variety of responses or opinions to question put to the viewing audience during a particular program. The "ENTER" position renders the response selected available for transmission back to the CDS 11." Applicants believe, therefore, that claims 15-18 are now patentable over the prior art and requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuko et al. (4,686,564) in view of Seth-Smith et al. (4,829,569). It is respectfully submitted that Masuko and Seth-Smith, either alone or in combination, render the present invention obvious. Specifically, Masuko does not teach displaying a screen including an operation prompt to a user. Since there is no mention, the Applicants speculate that the user tunes to a broadcasted pay-per-view channel and, at that time, selects the option of purchasing or reserving the PPV program. Accordingly, therefore, there is no motivation to combine Seth-Smith's technique of providing lines of dialogue on the screen along with the video signal.

15.   (Once Amended) A method for use in an interactive television system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a video signal and a plurality of first operation data from a system manager, the first operation data associated with user inputs at a subscriber terminal [during a first mode], each first operation data identifying a particular operation;

receiving the video signal and the first operation data at the subscriber terminal;

storing the first operation data;

receiving a user input;

generating upstream data according to the user input; and

transmitting the upstream data to the system manager,

wherein the user input is one of a request for the first operation data and a request for a second operation data.

16.   (Once Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting the request for the second operation data to the system manager; [and]

receiving the request for the second operation data at the [subscriber terminal] system manager, and

subsequent to receiving the request for the second operation data, transmitting the second operation data to the requesting subscriber terminal.

17.   (Once Amended) A method for use in an interactive television system, comprising the steps of:

storing operation data, the operation data associated with at least one user input during a first mode, the operation data identifying a particular operation;

receiving a user input during a second mode;

comparing the user input during the second mode with the operation data stored associated with the first mode; and

performing an operation corresponding with the operation data which matches the user input during the first mode, or an operation associated with the user input during [a] the second mode.

18.   (Once Amended) The method of claim 17, further including the steps of:

transmitting second operation data from a system manager associated with the operation during the second mode; and

receiving the second operation data at a subscriber terminal [prior to said step of storing],

wherein the second operation data replaces the stored operation data during the first mode.

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CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete amendment and response. Claims 15-26 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with claims 15, 17, 19, and 21 being independent. Based on the amendment set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 12 total claims, 4 of which are independent. Applicants submit that a filing fee for 20 total claims, 4 of which are independent was paid. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

By: _____

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